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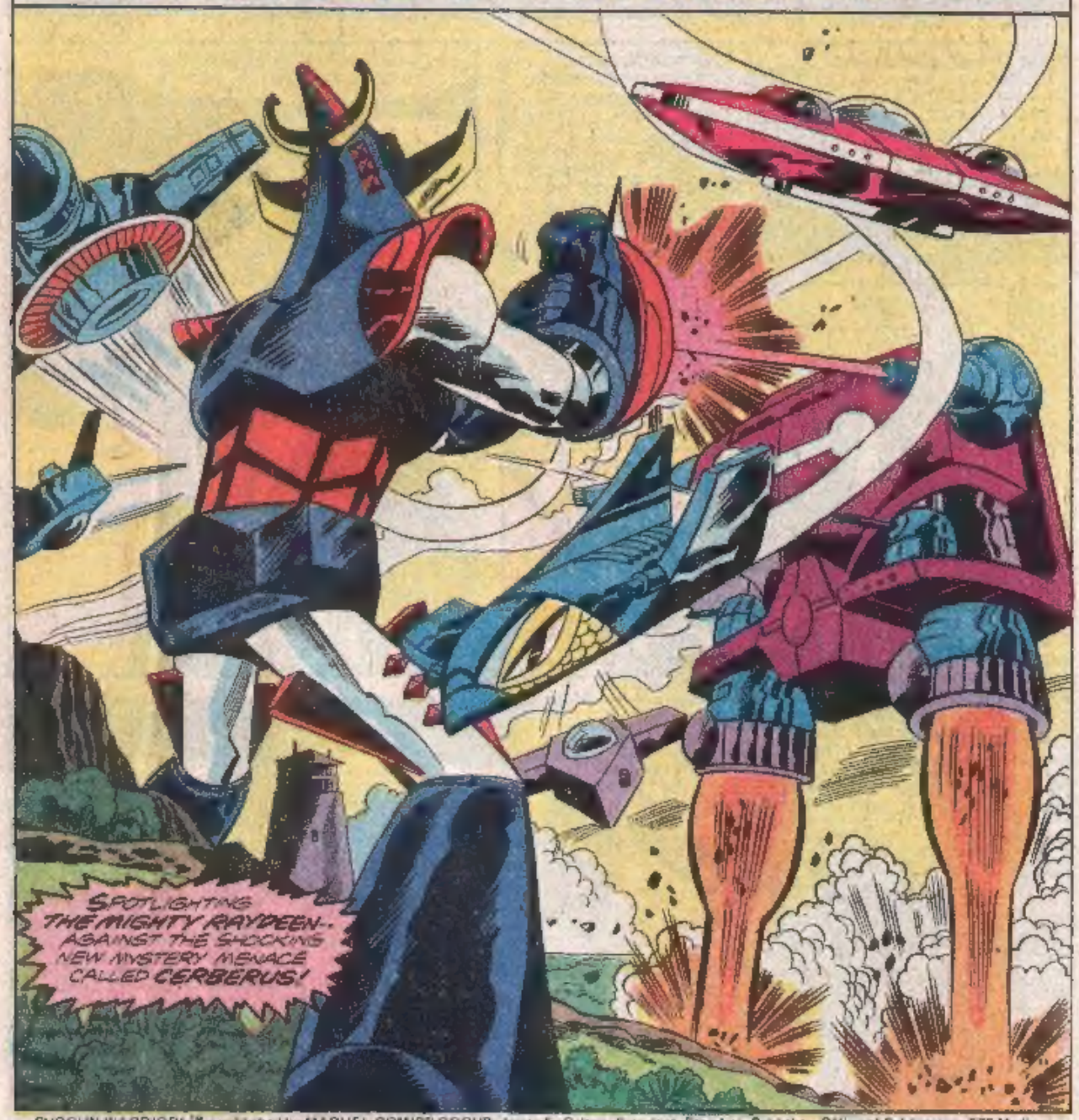
SHOGUN WARRIORS™

From an ancient sanctuary hidden in the mountains of Japan come Raydeen, Combatra and Danguard Ace— giant robots operated by three courageous humans, Richard Carson, Genji Odashu, and Hongo Savage — ready to fight the forces of evil wherever they arise!

Stan Lee Presents: SHOGUN WARRIORS.

DOUG MOENCH WRITER • HERB TRIMPE ARTIST • MIKE "ESPOSITO" ESPOSITO INKER • JOHN COSTANZA LETTERER • CARL GAFFORD COLORIST • ALLEN MILGROM EDITOR • JIM SHOOTER ED.-IN-CHIEF

The MANY HEADS of CERBERUS



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LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT! A PLANE TOUCHES DOWN AT ITS FINAL DESTINATION FROM A STARTING POINT IN THE FAR EAST...
ONE OF ITS PASSENGERS IS RETURNING FROM AN EXTENDED TRIP INTO DANGER... AND WONDER.
PAN AM

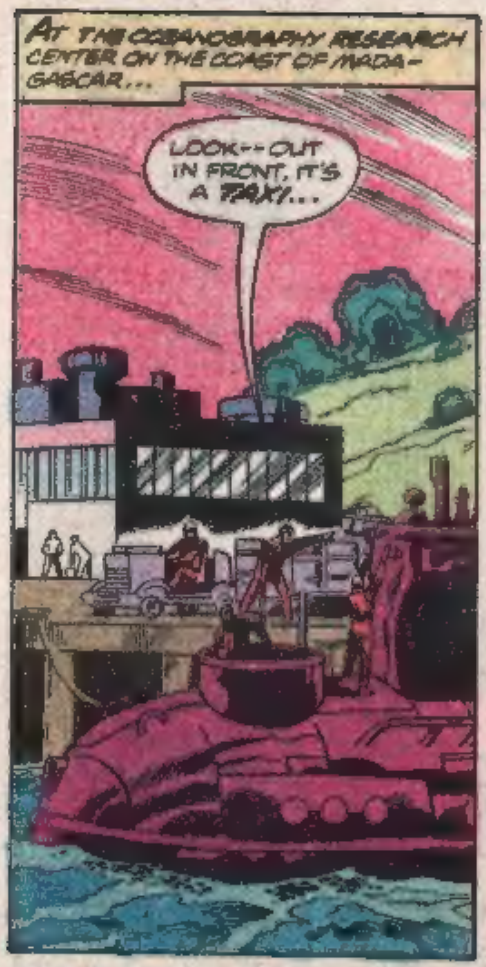
HIS NAME IS RICHARD CARSON.
I'M EXHAUSTED-- BUT GLAD TO BE HOME, SWEET HOME.
ALSO GLAD I DECIDED TO TAKE A REGULAR JET BACK...

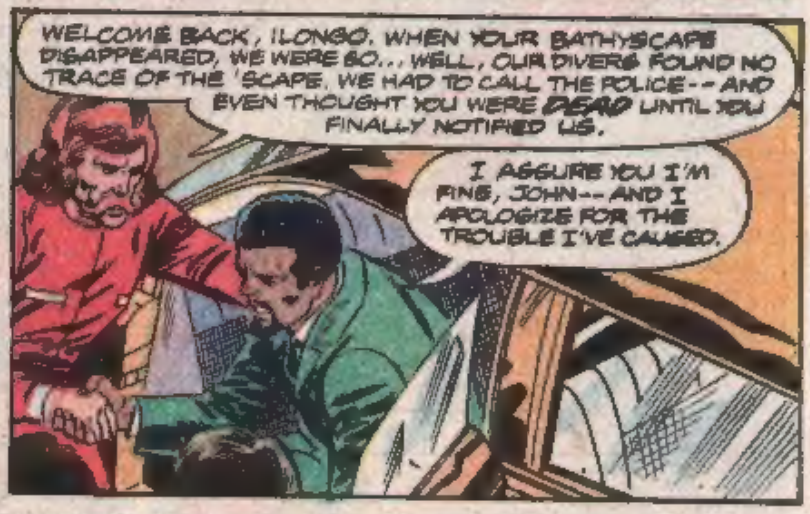
AFTER ALL THE WEIRDNESS LATELY, IT FEELS GOOD TO BE NORMAL AGAI--
RICHARD CARSON! WHERE ON EARTH HAVE YOU BEEN?!
HUH--?

OH, HI, DEENA. GUESS YOU GOT MY TELEGRAM, HUH?
TELEGRAM?! "MEET ME 2 PM TUES. L.A. AIRPORT." YOU CALL THAT A TELEGRAM?!

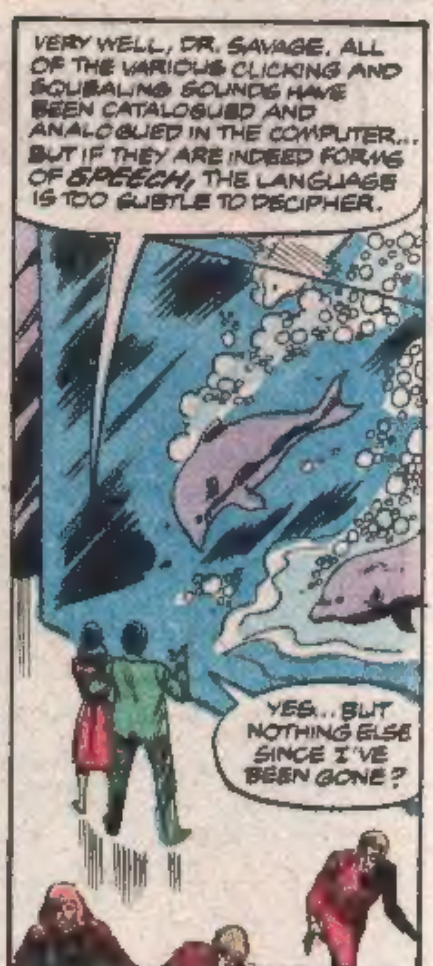
YOU CALL THAT AN EXPLANATION?!
UH, DEENA, ANYONE EVER TELLS YOU YOU'RE TOO DELICATE, YOU OUGHTTA BUST 'IM RIGHT IN THE CHOPS. NOW WHAT SAY WE GET OUT OF HERE-- I'M BUSHED.

I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT ON THE WAY HOME.
DON'T WORRY, RICHARD-- I WON'T MAKE ANY MORE OF A SCENE HERE IN THE AIRPORT... BUT THIS STORY HAD BETTER BE A GOOD ONE.
MY BIKE'S IN THE LOT.




WELCOME BACK, ILONGO. WHEN YOUR BATHYSCAPE DISAPPEARED, WE WERE SO... WELL, OUR DIVERS FOUND NO TRACE OF THE 'SCAPE, WE HAD TO CALL THE POLICE--AND EVEN THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD UNTIL YOU FINALLY NOTIFIED US.
I ASSURE YOU I'M FINE, JOHN--AND I APOLOGIZE FOR THE TROUBLE I'VE CAUSED.

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK--EVERYTHING IS STILL THE SAME.
AND NOW, SINCE WE WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO TALK FURTHER OVER DINNER TONIGHT, I THINK WE SHOULD ALL GET BACK TO WORK...
SOMEWHAT MYSTIFIED BY THE MILD BRUSHOFF, THE WORKERS NEVERTHELESS BEGIN TO DISPERSE...


VERY WELL, DR. SAVAGE. ALL OF THE VARIOUS CLICKING AND SQUEALING SOUNDS HAVE BEEN CATALOGUED AND ANALOGUED IN THE COMPUTER... BUT IF THEY ARE INDEED FORMS OF SPEECH, THE LANGUAGE IS TOO SUBTLE TO DECIPHER.
YES...BUT NOTHING ELSE SINCE I'VE BEEN GONE?

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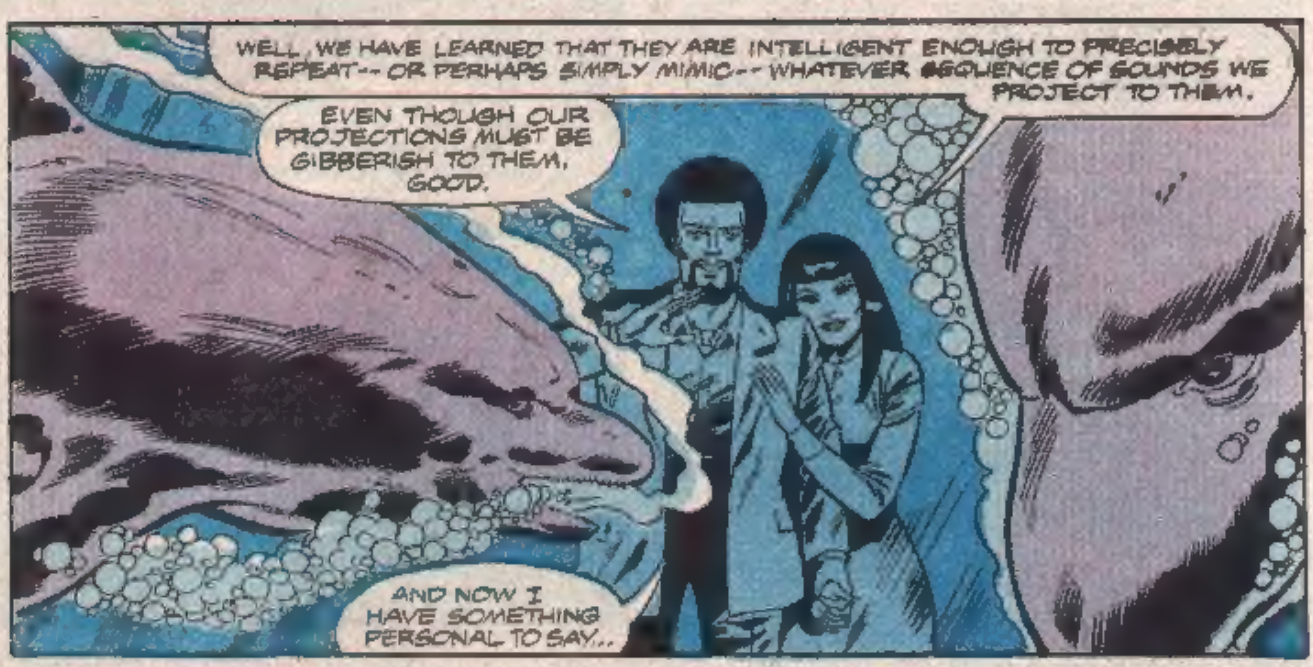

WELL, WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THEY ARE INTELLIGENT ENOUGH TO PRECISELY REPEAT-- OR PERHAPS SIMPLY MIMIC-- WHATEVER SEQUENCE OF SOUNDS WE PROJECT TO THEM.
EVEN THOUGH OUR PROJECTIONS MUST BE GIBBERISH TO THEM, GOOD.
AND NOW I HAVE SOMETHING PERSONAL TO SAY...

IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, JUDITH.
YES, ILONGO, I...

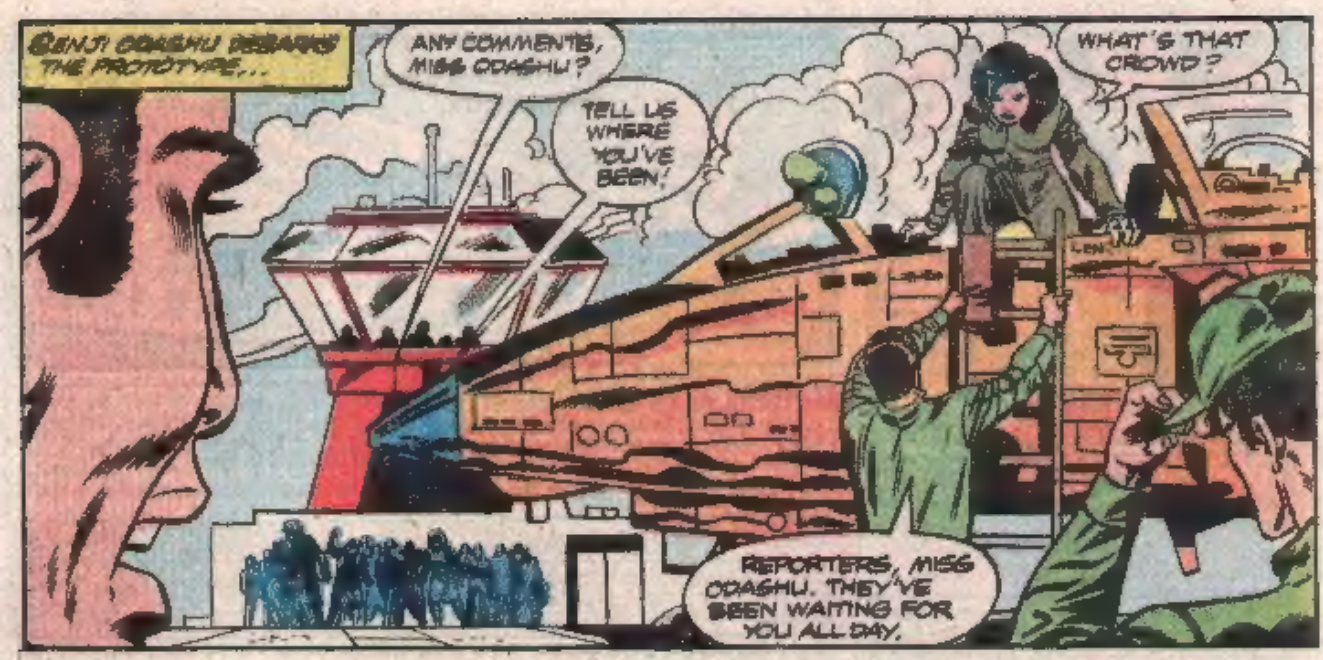
...I WORRIED ABOUT YOU. AND NOW, THE WORRY MAKES MY HAPPINESS GREATER.
BUT TELL ME... THAT PENDANT YOU ARE NOW WEARING-- SO STRANGE, YET SO BEAUTIFUL, I NEVER NOTICED IT BEFORE...

NO, IT IS NEW-- A... WHAT SHALL I CALL IT?

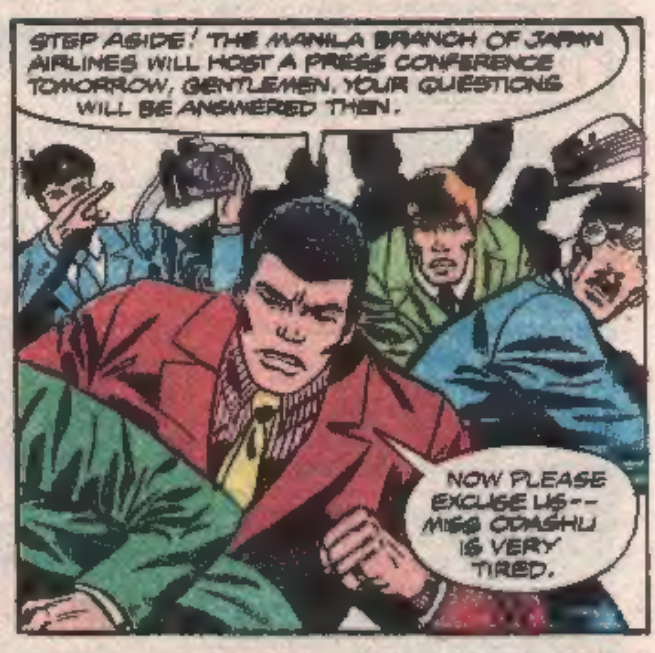
A...MAGIC TALISMAN. SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY HAS HAPPENED TO ME, JUDITH.
I SAID I MIGHT TELL THE OTHERS ABOUT IT SOMEDAY, BUT I DOUBT I EVER WILL. HOWEVER, I THINK I WILL TELL YOU... SOON...
...WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR WONDERMENT.

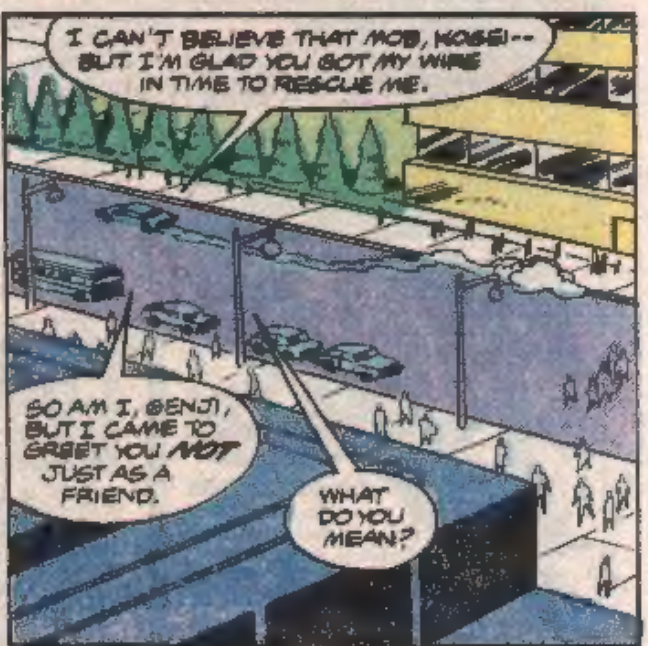
MEANWHILE, ABOARD AN OIL TANKER SOME NINETY MILES OFF THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA...
LOOK! THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE-- OFF THE BOW!

WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW... BUT IT MUST BE HUGE...
SEEMS TO BE HEADED BACK THE WAY WE CAME-- TO THE EAST.
MUST BE SOMETHING THE NAVY'S TESTING-- A NEW AIRCRAFT CARRIER OF SOMETHING...
WRONG.
IN THE TANGLED MESS CALLED THE L.A. FREEWAY SYSTEM...
YOU'RE KIDDING.
NO, DEENA, I'M NOT KIDDING...
AND WATCH OUT FOR THIS BOZO IN THE LINCOLN-- WE'RE NOT DOING A STUNT, Y'KNOW.
LIC
THEN IF YOU'RE NOT KIDDING, RICHARD, I REFUSE TO BELIEVE IT.
I CAN'T HELP THAT-- I'VE TOLD YOU THE TRUTH.
BELIEVE WHATEVER YOU WANT.
I BELIEVE YOU'VE GONE BONKERS, THAT'S WHAT I BELIEVE.
AND THIS IS OUR EXIT, BONKERS!
THE EXPERIMENTAL PROTOTYPE FOR A JET-FIGHTER, WHICH HAS BEEN MISSING FOR WEEKS, HITS THE TARMAC...
A MOB RUSHES TOWARDS IT.


GENJI ODASHU DISARMS THE PROTOTYPE...
ANY COMMENTS, MISS ODASHU?
TELL US WHERE YOU'VE BEEN!
WHAT'S THAT CROWD?
REPORTERS, MISS ODASHU. THEY'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU ALL DAY.

WERE YOU HIJACKED? WAS IT TERRORISTS?
DID YOU DEFECT TO CHINA? WERE YOU SHOT DOWN? CAPTURED?
WAS IT THE BERMUDA TRIAGLE?
PLEASE, I... I--


STEP ASIDE! THE MANILA BRANCH OF JAPAN AIRLINES WILL HOST A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW, GENTLEMEN. YOUR QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED THEN.
NOW PLEASE EXCUSE US-- MISS ODASHU IS VERY TIRED.


I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT MOB, KOSEI-- BUT I'M GLAD YOU GOT MY WIRE IN TIME TO RESCUE ME.
SO AM I, GENJI, BUT I CAME TO GREET YOU NOT JUST AS A FRIEND.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

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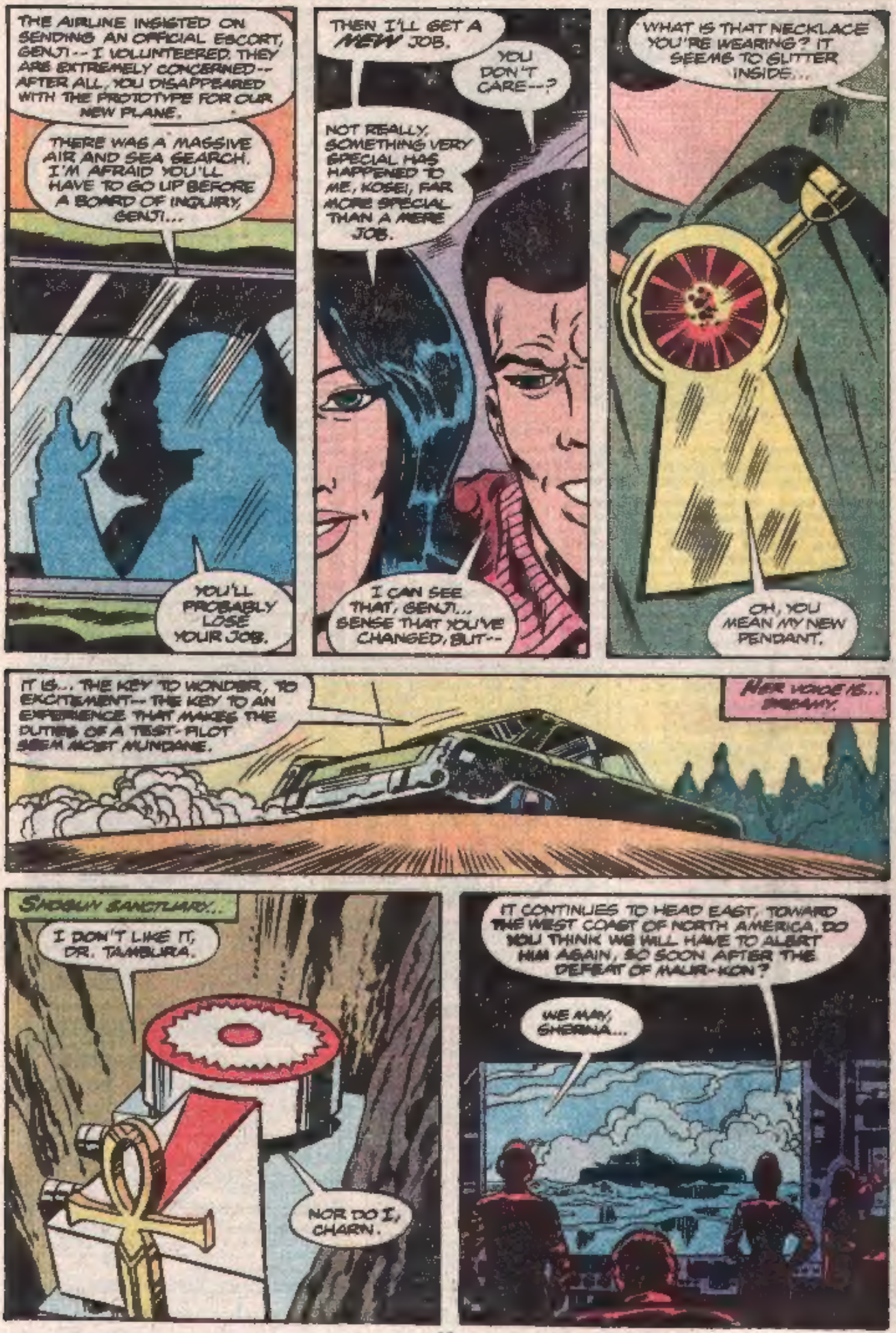
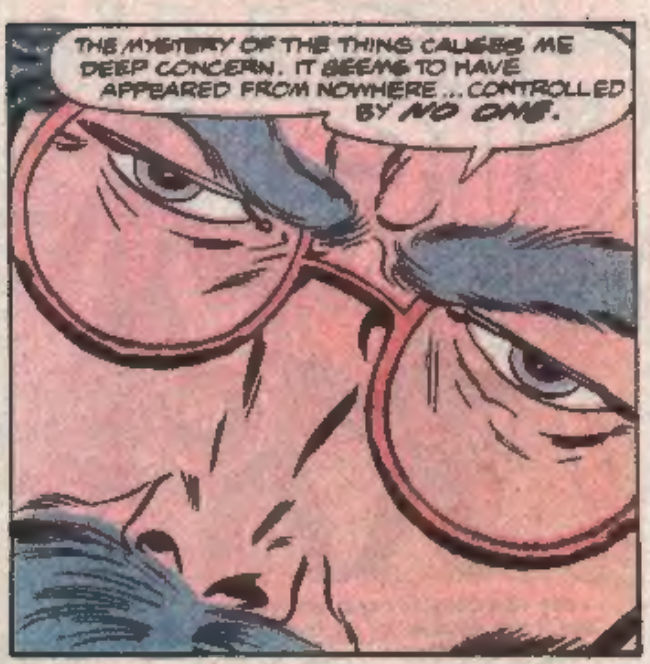
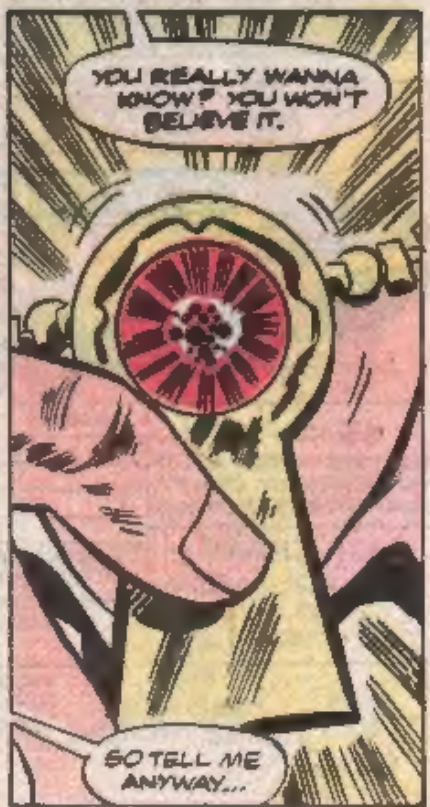

THE AIRLINE INSISTED ON SENDING AN OFFICIAL ESCORT, GENJI -- I VOLUNTEERED. THEY ARE EXTREMELY CONCERNED -- AFTER ALL, YOU DISAPPEARED WITH THE PROTOTYPE FOR OUR NEW PLANE.
THERE WAS A MASSIVE AIR AND SEA SEARCH. I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO GO UP BEFORE A BOARD OF INQUIRY, GENJI...
YOU'LL PROBABLY LOSE YOUR JOB.
THEN I'LL GET A NEW JOB.
YOU DON'T CARE--?
NOT REALLY. SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL HAS HAPPENED TO ME, KOSEI, FAR MORE SPECIAL THAN A MERE JOB.
I CAN SEE THAT, GENJI... SENSE THAT YOU'VE CHANGED, BUT--
WHAT IS THAT NECKLACE YOU'RE WEARING? IT SEEMS TO GLITTER INSIDE...
OH, YOU MEAN MY NEW PENDANT.
IT IS... THE KEY TO WONDER, TO EXCITEMENT-- THE KEY TO AN EXPERIENCE THAT MAKES THE DUTIES OF A TEST-PILOT SEEM MOST MUNDANE.
HER VOICE IS... DREAMY.
SHOGUN SANCTUARY...
I DON'T LIKE IT, DR. TAMBURA.
NOR DO I, CHARN.
IT CONTINUES TO HEAD EAST, TOWARD THE WEST COAST OF NORTH AMERICA. DO YOU THINK WE WILL HAVE TO ALERT HIM AGAIN, SO SOON AFTER THE DEFEAT OF MAUR-KON?
WE MAY, SHERNA...



ON A HILLSIDE JUST BEYOND LOS ANGELES: DREAM'S BIKE IS PARKED OUTSIDE RICHARD CARSON'S HOME...
GOOD FOR YOU, MR. CARSON, BUT YOU'RE STILL GONNA HAVE TO COME UP WITH A BETTER EXCUSE FOR HAVING BEEN GONE ALL THIS TIME.
GADZOOKS, BUT I'M STARVED!
"GIANT ROBOTS AND MONSTERS AND EVIL FOLLOWERS AND DARKNESS AND LIGHT"... INDEED, SIR!

FIRST YOU CONJURE A WILD FANTASY TO DENY IT, THEN YOU COME RIGHT OUT AND ADMIT IT TO MAKE ME JEALOUS. WELL, IF YOU THINK...
GAY, WHAT'S THAT FREAKY PENDANT?
LIKE A KEYHOLE...



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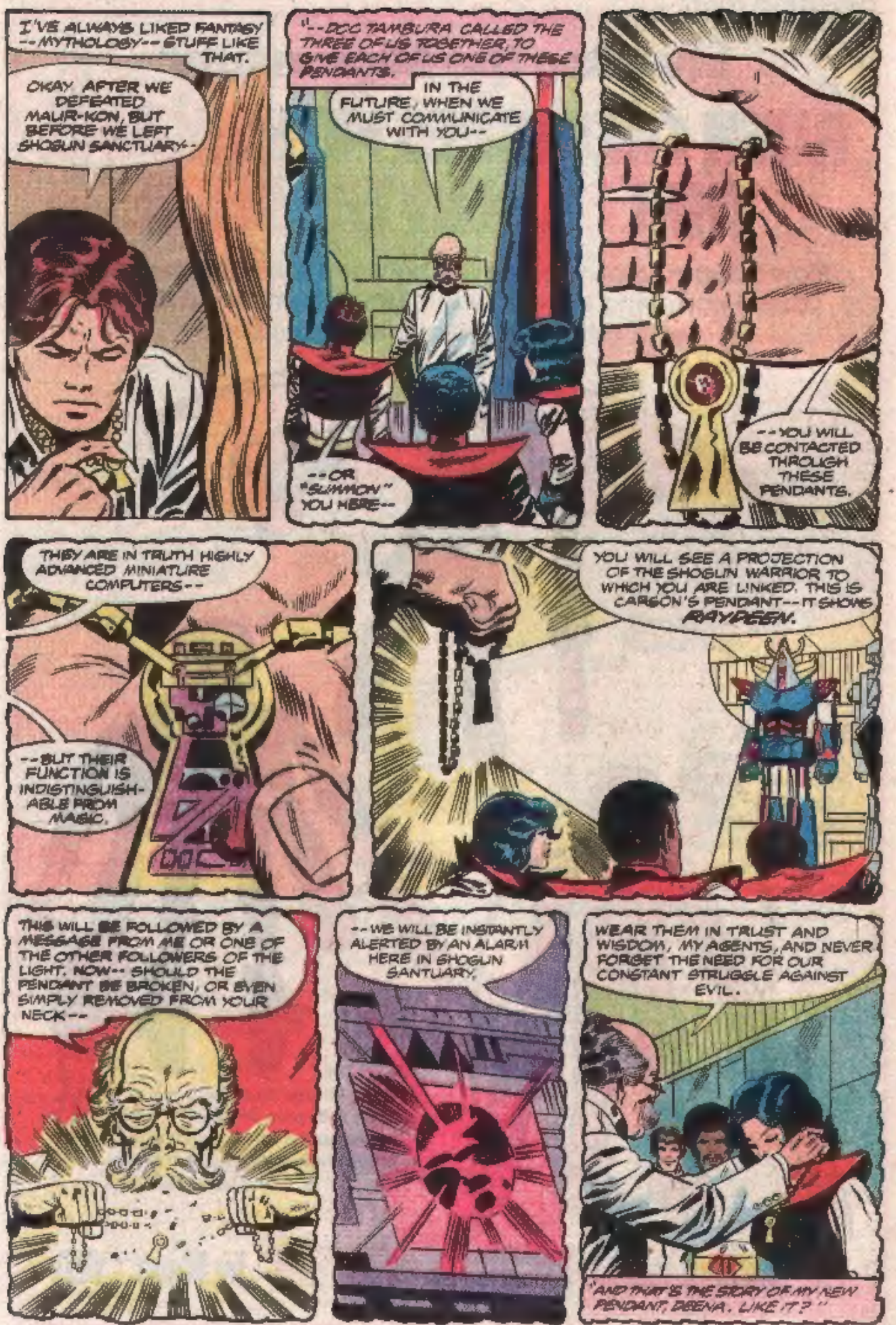
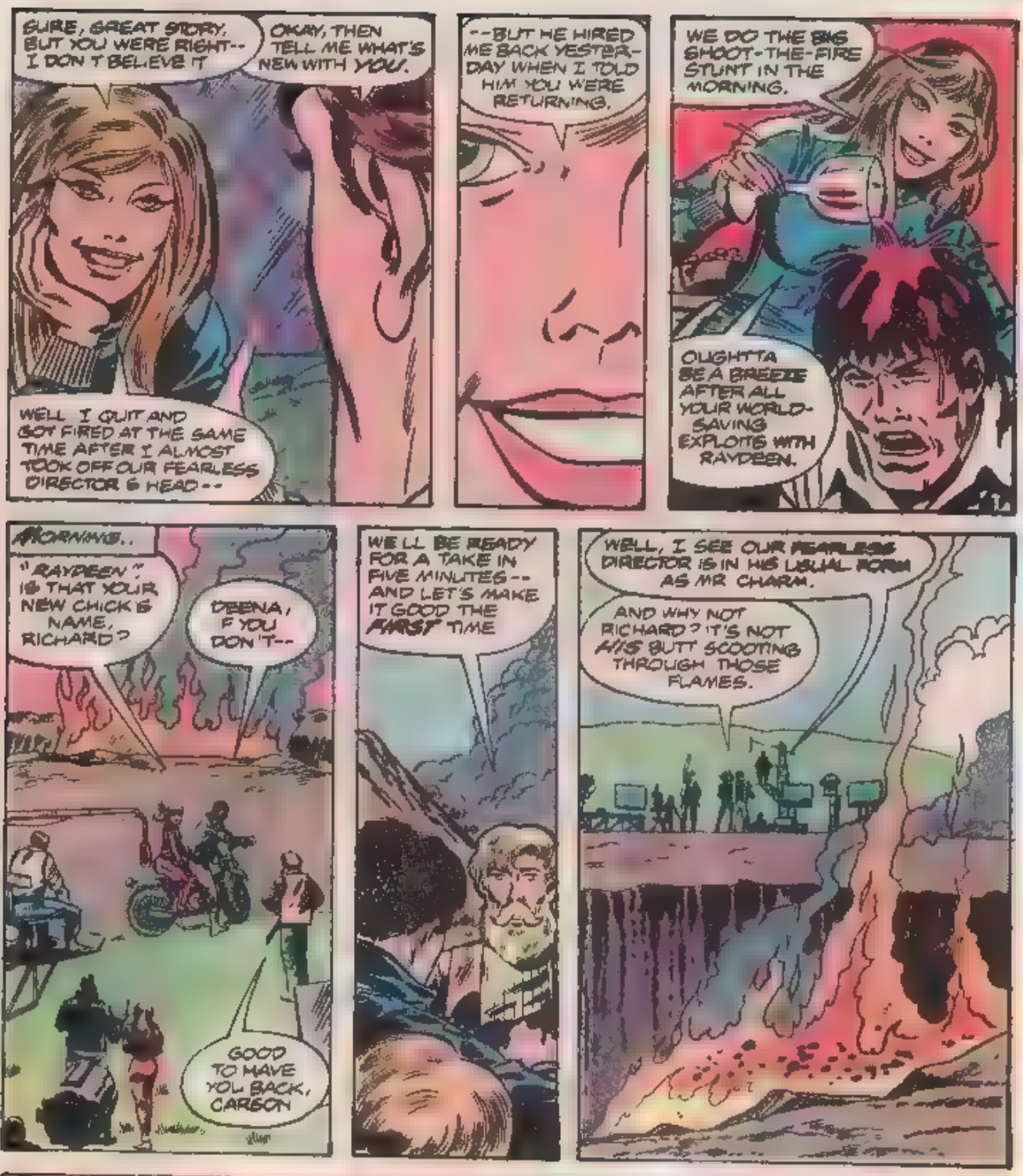

I'VE ALWAYS LIKED FANTASY --MYTHOLOGY-- STUFF LIKE THAT.
OKAY. AFTER WE DEFEATED MAUR-KON, BUT BEFORE WE LEFT SHOGUN SANCTUARY--
"--DOC TAMBURA CALLED THE THREE OF US TOGETHER, TO GIVE EACH OF US ONE OF THESE PENDANTS.
IN THE FUTURE, WHEN WE MUST COMMUNICATE WITH YOU--
--OR "SUMMON" YOU HERE--
--YOU WILL BE CONTACTED THROUGH THESE PENDANTS.
THEY ARE IN TRUTH HIGHLY ADVANCED MINIATURE COMPUTERS--
--BUT THEIR FUNCTION IS INDISTINGUISH-ABLE FROM MAGIC.
YOU WILL SEE A PROJECTION OF THE SHOGLIN WARRIOR TO WHICH YOU ARE LINKED. THIS IS CARSON'S PENDANT--IT SHOWS RAYDEEN.
THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A MESSAGE FROM ME OR ONE OF THE OTHER FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT. NOW-- SHOULD THE PENDANT BE BROKEN, OR EVEN SIMPLY REMOVED FROM YOUR NECK--
--WE WILL BE INSTANTLY ALERTED BY AN ALARM HERE IN SHOGLIN SANTUARY.
WEAR THEM IN TRUST AND WISDOM, MY AGENTS, AND NEVER FORGET THE NEED FOR OUR CONSTANT STRUGGLE AGAINST EVIL.
"AND THAT'S THE STORY OF MY NEW PENDANT, DEENA. LIKE IT?"


SURE, GREAT STORY, BUT YOU WERE RIGHT-- I DON'T BELIEVE IT
OKAY, THEN TELL ME WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU.
WELL I QUIT AND GOT FIRED AT THE SAME TIME AFTER I ALMOST TOOK OFF OUR FEARLESS DIRECTOR'S HEAD--
--BUT HE HIRED ME BACK YESTERDAY WHEN I TOLD HIM YOU WERE RETURNING.
WE DO THE BIG SHOOT-THE-FIRE STUNT IN THE MORNING.
OUGHTTA BE A BREEZE AFTER ALL YOUR WORLD-SAVING EXPLOITS WITH RAYDEEN.
MORNING..
"RAYDEEN"? IS THAT YOUR NEW CHICK'S NAME, RICHARD?
DEENA, IF YOU DON'T--
GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK, CARSON
WE'LL BE READY FOR A TAKE IN FIVE MINUTES-- AND LET'S MAKE IT GOOD THE FIRST TIME
WELL, I SEE OUR FEARLESS DIRECTOR IS IN HIS USUAL FORM AS MR CHARM.
AND WHY NOT RICHARD? IT'S NOT HIS BUTT SCOOTING THROUGH THOSE FLAMES.
AND, A SHORT DISTANCE DUE WEST OF THE FILM LOCATION...
WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT THING--?
I DON'T KNOW-- BUT IT'S COMING STRAIGHT AT THE BEACH!

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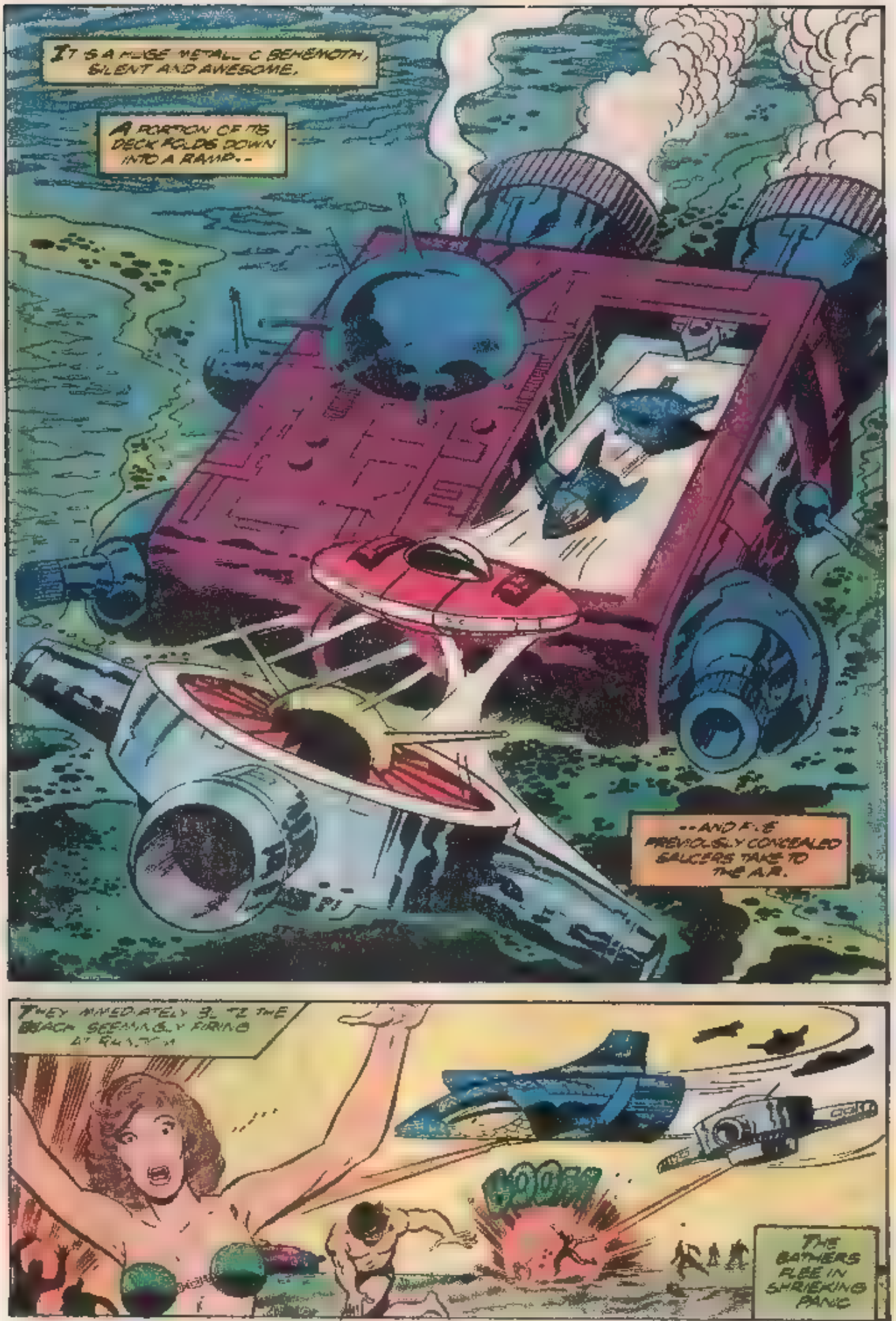
IT IS A HUGE METALLIC BEHEMOTH, SILENT AND AWESOME.
A PORTION OF ITS DECK FOLDS DOWN INTO A RAMP...
...AND FIVE PREVIOUSLY CONCEALED SAUCERS TAKE TO THE AIR.
THEY IMMEDIATELY SPLIT THE BEACH SCREAMING FROM AT RUNTIME
BOOM
THE BATHERS FLEE IN SHRIEKING PANIC

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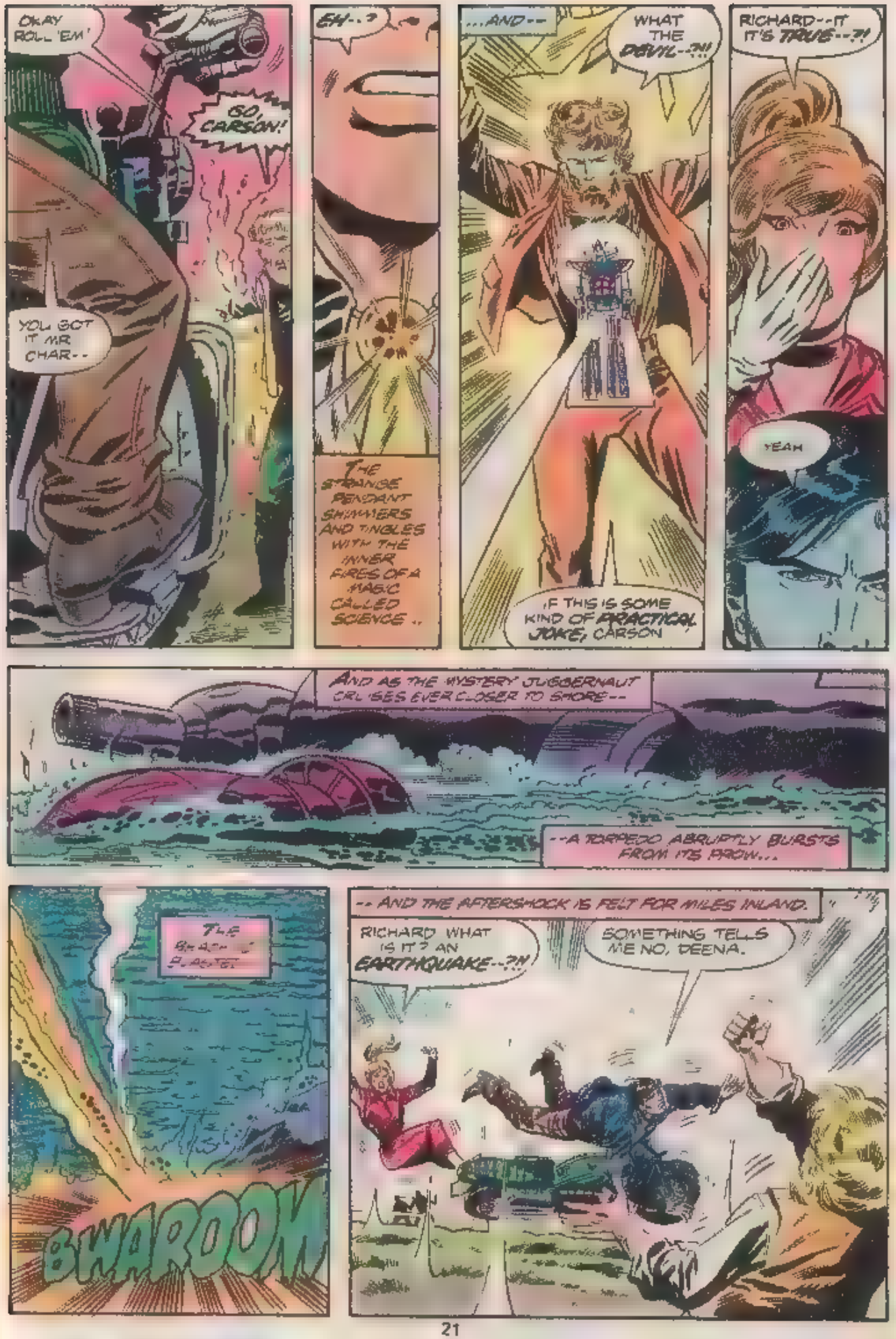
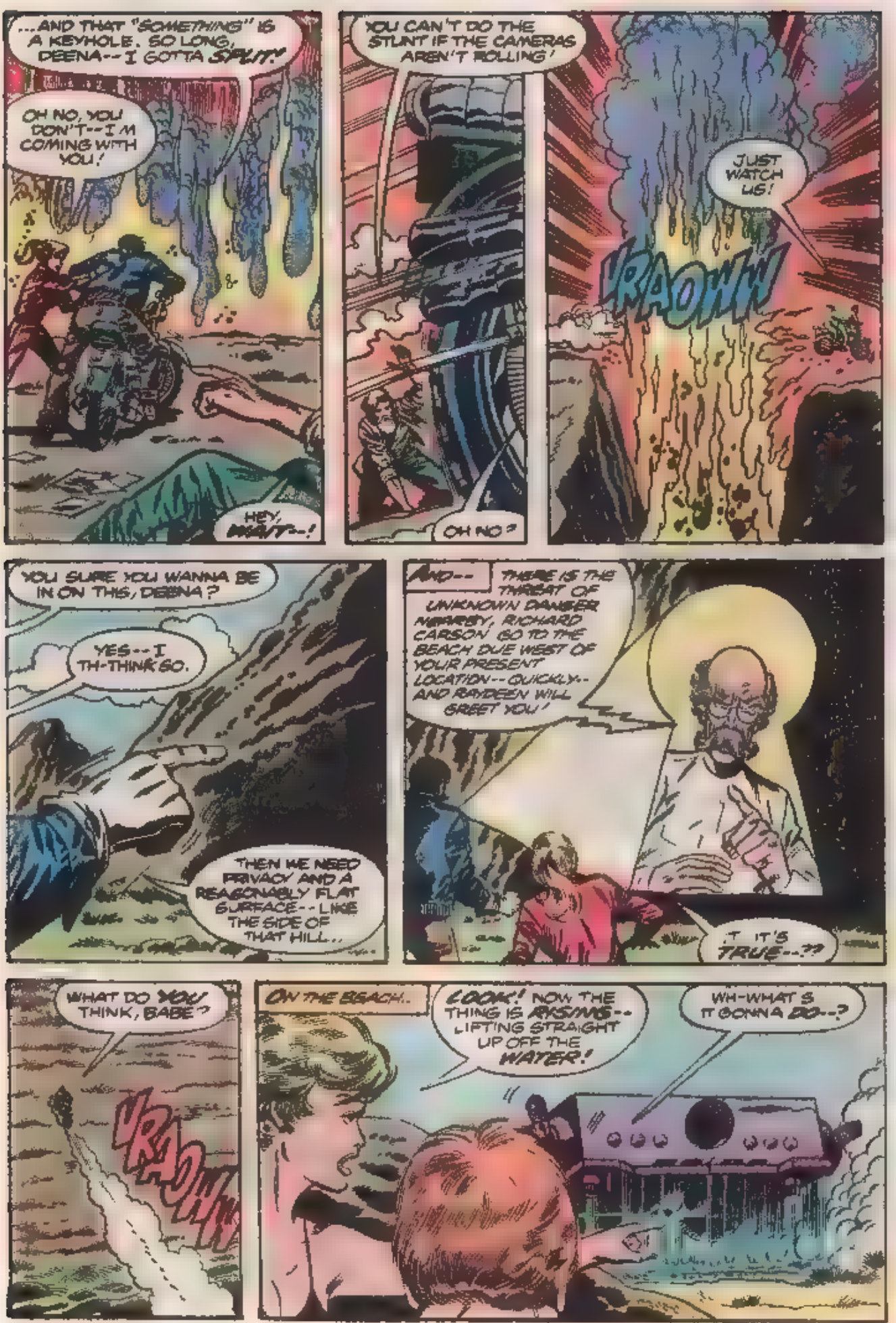
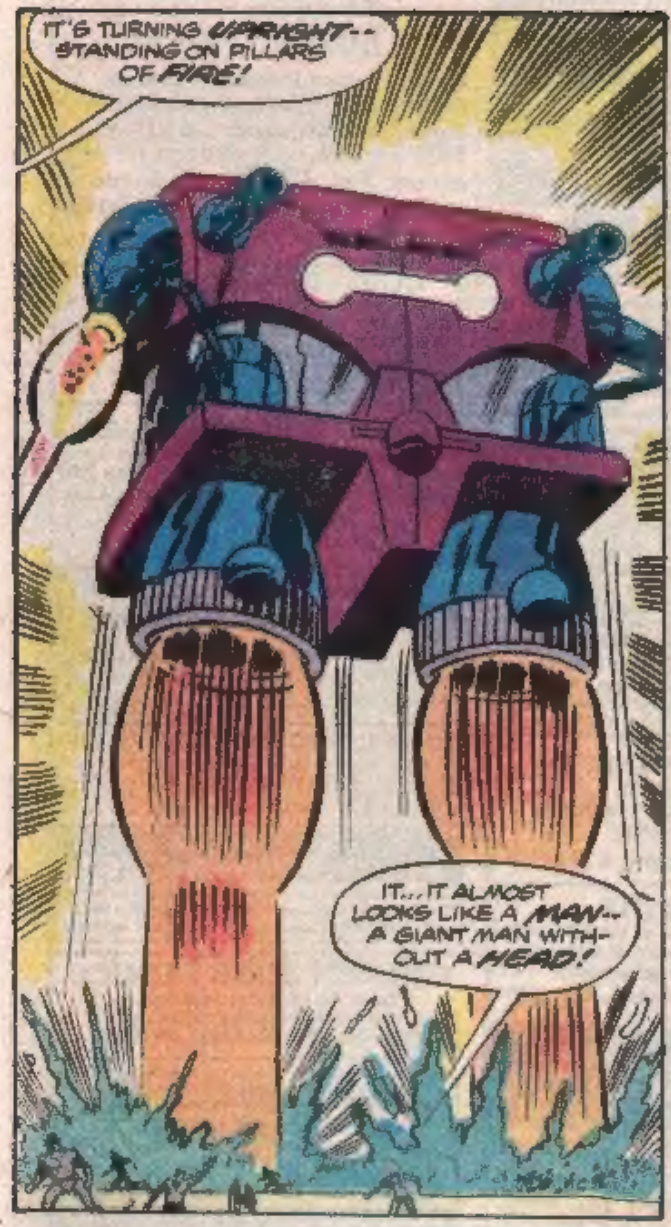
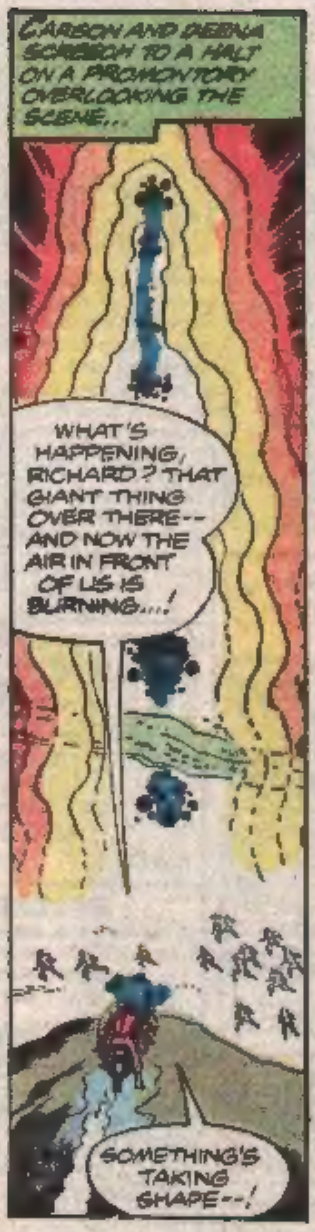

OKAY ROLL 'EM
GO, CARSON!
YOU GOT IT MR CHAR--
EH--?
THE STRANGE PENDANT SHIMMERS AND TINGLES WITH THE INNER FIRES OF A MAGIC CALLED SCIENCE..
...AND--
WHAT THE DEVIL--?!!
IF THIS IS SOME KIND OF PRACTICAL JOKE, CARSON
RICHARD--IT IT'S TRUE--?!
YEAH
AND AS THE MYSTERY JUGGERNAUT CRUISES EVER CLOSER TO SHORE--
--A TORPEDO ABRUPTLY BURSTS FROM ITS PROW...
THE
BWAROOM
-- AND THE AFTERSHOCK IS FELT FOR MILES INLAND.
RICHARD WHAT IS IT? AN EARTHQUAKE--?!
SOMETHING TELLS ME NO, DEENA.


...AND THAT "SOMETHING" IS A KEYHOLE. SO LONG, DEENA--I GOTTA SPLIT!
OH NO, YOU DON'T--I'M COMING WITH YOU!
HEY, MATT--!
YOU CAN'T DO THE STUNT IF THE CAMERAS AREN'T ROLLING!
OH NO?
KRAOWH
JUST WATCH US!
YOU SURE YOU WANNA BE IN ON THIS, DEENA?
YES--I TH-THINK SO.
THEN WE NEED PRIVACY AND A REASONABLY FLAT SURFACE--LIKE THE SIDE OF THAT HILL...
AND--
THERE IS THE THREAT OF UNKNOWN DANGER NEARBY, RICHARD CARSON! GO TO THE BEACH DUE WEST OF YOUR PRESENT LOCATION--QUICKLY--AND RAYDEEN WILL GREET YOU!
T-T-IT'S TRUE--??
WHAT DO YOU THINK, BABE?
KRAOWH
ON THE BEACH..
LOOK! NOW THE THING IS AXSMAS--LIFTING STRAIGHT UP OFF THE WATER!
WH-WHAT'S IT GONNA DO--?




CARSON AND DEENA SCREECH TO A HALT ON A PROMONTORY OVERLOOKING THE SCENE...
WHAT'S HAPPENING, RICHARD? THAT GIANT THING OVER THERE--AND NOW THE AIR IN FRONT OF US IS BURNING...!
SOMETHING'S TAKING SHAPE--!

...STRAIGHT UP INTO THE CONTROL-COCKPIT LOCATED IN RAYDEEN'S HEAD.
JUST IN TIME, RAYDEEN OLD BOY...
...CUZ IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

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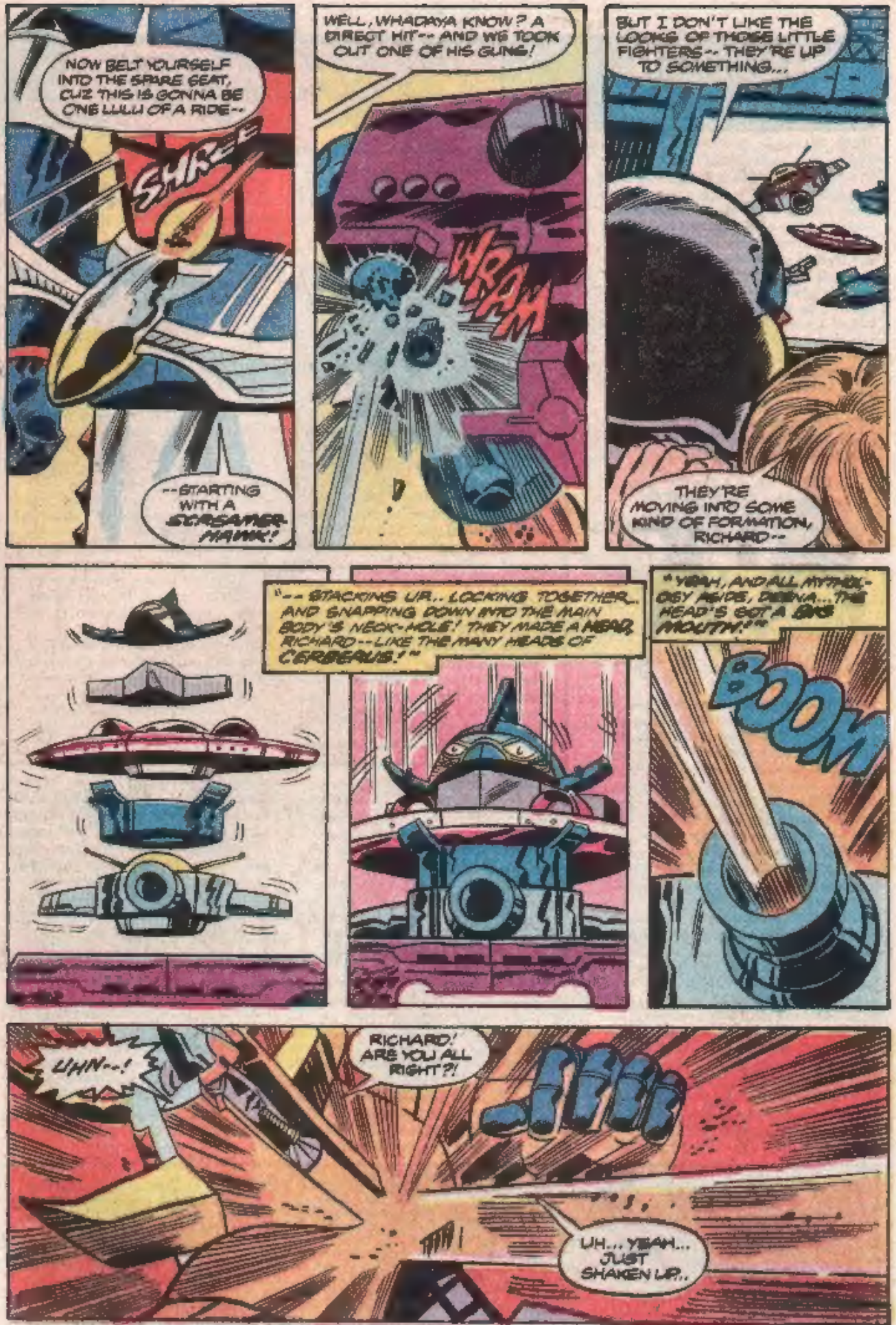
AND UNDER MULTIPLE ATTACK-- BY THE MAIN BODY AND FOUR OR FIVE LITTLE AUXILIARY ATTACKERS!
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT OUR HANDS FULL...
SO--
--LET'S TRY FOUR SHOTS AT ONCE.
SHOOSH
SHOOSH
SHOOSH
OOPS--NO DICE THERE. THE THING IS QUICK TO BLOCK--
SKORZH!
--AND HIS COUNTER-PUNCH IS PRETTY SWIFT TOO.
GHOOM
RICHARD--HELP!!
DEENA! ALMOST FORGOT SHE WAS UP THERE!
EASY, BABE, I'VE GOT YA.
YOU LOOK GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT...
I...I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
I TRIED TO TELL YOU, KID.


NOW BELT YOURSELF INTO THE SPARE SEAT, CUZ THIS IS GONNA BE ONE LULU OF A RIDE--
SHREE
--STARTING WITH A SCRAMMER-HAWK!
WELL, WHADAYA KNOW? A DIRECT HIT-- AND WE TOOK OUT ONE OF HIS GUNS!
WHAM
BUT I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THOSE LITTLE FIGHTERS-- THEY'RE UP TO SOMETHING...
THEY'RE MOVING INTO SOME KIND OF FORMATION, RICHARD--
"-- STACKING UP... LOCKING TOGETHER... AND SNAPPING DOWN INTO THE MAIN BODY'S NECK-HOLE! THEY MADE A HEAD, RICHARD-- LIKE THE MANY HEADS OF CERBERUS!"
"YEAH, AND ALL MYTHOLOGY ASIDE, DEENA... THE HEAD'S GOT A BIG MOUTH!"
BOOM
UHN--!
RICHARD! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
UH... YEAH... JUST SHAKEN UP...

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QUICK, DEENA--HIT THE GREEN BUTTON IN THE CENTER OF THE CONSOLE!
O-OKAY, RICHARD--
--BUT WHAT DOES IT DO--?
WEAPON PORT SELECTION
"IT MAKES RAYDEEN HURL HIS CONCUSSION SHIELD--WHICH CONVERTS TO A BOOMERANG. I ALREADY SET THE HOMING-BEAMS FOR THE THING'S HEAD--
"--SO WITH ANY LUCK..."
SPLAKT
IT WORKED--BUSTED THE HEAD BACK DOWN TO ITS FIVE COMPONENT SAUCERS!
YES, RICHARD, BUT THE PIECES DON'T SEEM TO BE DAMAGED...
THEY'RE WAFFLING... HOVERING INTO A NEW FORMATION--
"--LOCKING INTO A DIFFERENT HEAD!!"
"YEAH...AND AN EVEN NASTIER LOOKING ONE. THE MANY HEADS OF CERBERUS, INDEED. WELCOME TO THE 'MYTHOLOGY' OF THE SHADOWLAND WARRIORS, DEENA--HOPE YOU LIVE TO TELL ABOUT IT."

NEXT ISSUE

ROUND TWO IN THE BATTLE BETWEEN RAYDEEN AND THE MYSTERIOUS CERBERUS (AS WELL AS TANTALIZING GLIMPSES OF THE TROUBLE ABREW FOR OUR OTHER CHARACTERS).

in-- **CERBERUS AND THE SKYFALL!**